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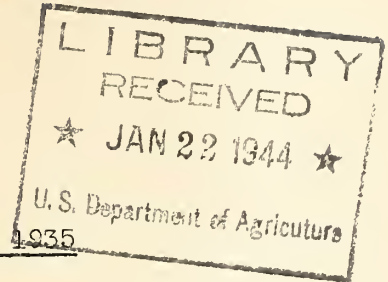
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

PURPOSES OF THE FOREST SERVICE

Radio Address, Broadcast over Station

W.I.S.N., Milwaukee, Wisconsin, April 16, 1935

By Scott Leavitt, In Charge, Public Relations



This evening, the Regional Office of the United States Forest Service, located in Milwaukee, under the direction of Regional Forester, E. W. Tinker, begins a series of broadcasts which, through the courtesy of W.I.S.N., will be presented at this same hour on succeeding alternate Tuesdays.

This Ninth Region of the United States Forest Service comprises the States of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, and North Dakota. In these nine states, forest plans and work are under way for the restoration and conservation of forest resources which will fire your imagination and stir your active interest.

When I tell you that some 60,000 young men of the CCC are now employed in this Region on constructive and valuable work in connection with this important program of Forest Restoration, and when you recall that this may easily mean a reduction in the burden of direct relief by three or four times that many men, women, and children, the immediate human significance of what is being done is fully apparent.

Forestry has, of course, and necessarily so, a long range point of view in addition to the securing of such immediate benefits as the supplying of work to many thousands of young men. My desire is to show the living and vital interest which all people, young and old, well may and should have in both this immediate and long range work. Forests once depleted and destroyed require a long time to grow again, but just as soon as we start replacing them, there is, at the very beginning, such work as gathering tree seeds, planting at nurseries to raise seedlings, and the transplanting of these seedlings to Forest areas. There is improvement - thinning of existing stands of timber, to remove worthless species and thus give better trees a chance to grow. There is the building of lookout towers from which watch is kept to discover fires at their beginning, and thus prevent their spread. There are roadside menaces of brush and down timber to clean up. There are roads and buildings to construct.

During the first two years of their existence in this Region, the Civilian Conservation Corps, under the guidance during their working hours, of trained men of the Forest Service, performed some

fourteen million man days of this useful work. In this way, it has been demonstrated what an important place forestry can always take in absorbing usefully, and at once, a considerable portion of the unemployed in any future emergency. The immeasurable value of conserving the spirit and character of the youth of the country in these difficult times has often been referred to, and is worthy of being referred to again and again, and it will be, in a future broadcast, devoted to that dramatic chapter of our humanitarian and conservation history. But this evening, it is the intention to sketch the more general outline, and to fill in the lights and living details later on in subsequent broadcasts.

The long range vision of Forestry work was recently expressed by President Roosevelt, upon his acceptance of the prized Schlich Forestry Medal, presented to him by the Society of American Foresters for distinguished service to the cause of Conservation. He then said,

"I consider the social point of view of Foresters as most essential to the success of their profession. Forests require many years to mature; consequently, the long point of view is necessary if the Forests are to be maintained for the good of our country. He who would hold this long point of view must realize the need of subordinating immediate profits for the sake of the future public welfare."

He thus strikingly sets forth the fact that while the near view of forestry merges inevitably into the far view, there is nowhere in its entire compass any shortsightedness.

What is it then that the United States Forest Service is attempting to accomplish in this Region, and why is it worth while to attempt it, and for all of us to cooperate in it?

To begin with, this portion of the United States was once our greatest lumber producing section. A large percentage of it was natural forest, and out of the cutting and use of that then seemingly inexhaustible supply of trees, there was built the first material prosperity of these states. Use of these forest resources, however, was accompanied by waste and destruction. Forest fires followed like a venging spirit in the wastes of the lumbermen. Where activity and teeming life had been, there came to many places silence and desolation.

Today, instead of being the greatest producer of forest products, this Region has come to be the greatest consumer of lumber, but with its own supply largely gone. We have in these states, forty million people, a third of the nation's population, and Chicago has become the country's greatest lumber market, while Cairo is in the center of the national lumber consumption. Yet this Region, which once supplied the entire nation, having depleted and exhausted its own matchless storehouse of Forest trees, now pays tribute for its folly in the form of an annual freight bill of over twenty-five million dollars on lumber brought from the South and from the Pacific Coast.

Within this area, a vast original forest, however, the same years which saw those Forests largely destroyed, has proved conclusively that there are yet at least sixty-eight million acres of almost exclusively forest land, or almost three times the area of Wisconsin, not suitable for agriculture, but whose highest use is still for the growing of forest trees. In some estimates, this figure is placed as high as eighty-three million acres. Nineteen million acres of such lands are now within the National Forests, and the boundaries of Purchase Units within the Region.

Various states have recognized that such Forest lands exist, and have undertaken Forest programs in varying degrees. All are constructive, and all vastly helpful. The Federal Government is coming more and more fully into the campaign for the restoration of these ancient forest resources. The present United States Forest Service has been in the work of Conservation for thirty years. Until the last few years, its greatest field has been in the mountain areas of the West.

Many of us who are now engaged in the Forest Restoration Program here have been Forest Supervisors and Rangers in that Western country. But of late, the golden age of Forestry has come to these Central States, lying about the Great Lakes and along the Ohio River, and the head waters and valleys of the Mississippi.

The stress of the times has emphasized that the restoration of forest cover on lands fitted for that, and not for farming, offers a tremendous field for the employment of labor, which will, in the reconstruction of the Forests, at the same time reconstruct weakened foundations of our national prosperity. To bring back again to this Region a part of its forests and to conserve by wise use those which still exist, will ultimately restore a great lumber industry, but that is not all.

The recreational values of forest areas, the wild life of animals, birds and fish, the keeping of the streams pure, all of these highly desirable results begin to come very early in the forestry program, and they grow in value increasingly with the years. Yet further, there are the influences of Forests in checking the washing away of valuable soil, and the accompanying help which Forest cover gives in holding back the waters which otherwise would contribute to disastrous floods.

Forest restoration will not alone cure all the ills of soil erosion and floods, but the influence of forests in reducing them is tremendous and indispensable. The importance of this is shown by the fact that on an average every year, enough soil, as to make one hundred square miles of land three feet deep, is washed down to the mouth of the Mississippi, and that is but a fraction of what is washed away from denuded lands and left on sand bars and as silt along the course of that mighty stream. That amount of soil is a loss each year, and to reduce it by Forestry practice is both feasible and necessary. Engineering works are also required to control floods, but even they must have the assistance of forests and forage cover at the heads of streams to make the soil absorp-

tive and a supplement to their control.

In a later program, this dramatic and tragic story of soil loss and flood destruction will be told. Tonight, I have only one more phase of the Forest work which I wish to present. It is just a glance, which I hope will make you share with us the vision of what is being planned and accomplished.

All through the once heavily forested portions of these parts of our country, there are communities and homes in difficulty or even abandoned, because the Forest resources are depleted or destroyed. This is because fires have exposed the soil to erosion. In the old days, people in such sections found work in the Forests to supplement their farming, and by that combination lived comfortably and reasonably well.

It is an objective of ours, and a sound one, to restore and stabilize many such communities. Our studies show that in these nine states permanent seasonal work can be given to nearly seventy thousand heads of families in addition to emergency employment to many more. In some places, new communities of forest workers may ultimately be placed on subsistence homesteads.

In all this stabilizing and adding of security to these American families, sound forestry practice is the key. The story of how the Forest Service Branch of Lands is laying such plans and opening up the work, of how our Branch of Forest Management is setting the course far into the future, all of these things and more will come in proper order to show exactly how the Forest Service is leading forward to practical results.

The time of this broadcast is about to end, but no talk on forest work should close without driving home one vital fact. It is that every plan for the welfare of our country through Forest Management and Conservation, every benefit, human and material, which can thus be planned or accomplished, will fail and be lost if we allow fires to sweep these forest areas as they have done in the past.

In this Region only about one out of one hundred fires is caused by lightning. In the northern part of the Region the average runs about one out of every ten. All except those caused by lightning are preventable. Let us think of the setting of a fire in the forest as the putting of a torch of destruction to our own home land.

Every one who enters the Forest areas can control himself and set no forest fire by carelessness with camp fires, matches or cigarettes. Every saw mill worker, every railroad man, and settler can set a guard upon his own doing and see to it that no fire demon is ever, by his carelessness or intention, let loose in the woods. In back of it all, every citizen - woman, man, girl, and boy, can be a watchman and a builder of that public opinion which will halt the setting of fires. Thus may we all have a part in the restoration of our Forests for the use and everlasting benefit of us all.

The Forest Service closes its first of a series of broadcasts, glad to have questions come, and appreciative of your attention.